

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Consumer Protection

Public Hearing on Proposed Regulations
Concerning the Use of Electronic Signatures by
Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

May 8, 2012

Before: Jerry Padula, Hearing Officer

Speakers: Steven Schwane – Department of Consumer Protection

William Pratt – Connecticut Department of Transportation

TRANSCRIPT

Jerry Padula: Good morning everyone. My name is Attorney Jerry Padula. I am an attorney with Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection. I've been designated by the Commissioner William M. Rubenstein to be the hearing officer for today's public hearing on proposed regulations concerning the Use of Electronic Signatures by Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Today is Tuesday May 8, 2012, time is now 10:17 in the morning. We are here today in Room 119 of the State Office Building, which is located at 165 Capitol Avenue here in the "Capitol City" of Hartford, Connecticut.

On April 3, 2012, the Department published a "Notice of Intent to Amend Regulations" in the Connecticut Law Journal. These regulations today are being proposed in accordance with the authority granted in the Connecticut General Statutes, sections 4-168 and 20-300. For record, a copy of that Law Journal notice will be entered into the record as Exhibit "A".

The Fiscal Note prepared by the agency, which reflects no fiscal impact on the State of Connecticut or the agency will be marked as Exhibit "B".

The Small Business Impact Statement, which is referred to in the Law Journal publication, will be marked as Exhibit “C”.

And we have not received any other written correspondence at this time but I will mark additional exhibits if any presented to me during the course of this public hearing. The Department performed the Small Business Impact analysis, and notified the Department of Small Business Affairs at the Department of Economic Development of our intent to amend these regulations. In pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 4-168a, when drafting these proposed regulations the Department considered methods that would accomplish the objectives of the applicable statutes while minimizing the impact on small businesses. This agency specifically considered the five methods listed in subsection (b) of Connecticut General Statutes 4-168a. At this point, we will begin by having the individuals who have signed the speaker sign-up sheet come forward to give their comments. You could also leave written comments with me as well and they will be marked into the record accordingly. I do have the designation letter of the Commissioner which I’ll marked that into the record also as Exhibit “D”.

Okay, the first person on our sheet is Steven Schwane with the Department of Consumer Protection.

Steven Schwane: Good morning, my name is Steve Schwane, am an attorney with the Department of Consumer Protection. One of my areas of responsibilities with the Department is the Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. I know that both, that Board and the Department of Consumer Protection strongly support these proposed regulations. They basically bring some existing regulations up to, bringing them up to date and allowing for electronic signatures and seals and eliminating paper seals. So again, the Department and the Board, I know work on these and they strongly supportive of them. Thank you.

Jerry Padula: Thank you. Okay. The second person on our sheet is Mr. William Pratt with Connecticut Department of Transportation.

William Pratt: Hi, I am William Pratt. I work, I am the principal engineer for the Connecticut Department of Transportation. I work in the A.E.C Applications Unit of the Design Services Division within the Bureau of Engineering and Construction. Our office has been piloting contract plans

with digital signatures for approximately four years and we fully endorse these proposed regulations for streamlining of project delivery. Thank you.

Jerry Padula: Thank you. Okay, anyone else wishing to comment on the regulations? Okay. With that, I don't know if we would have any other comments but I will hold the record open until the end of the day today for any written comments that wish to be submitted, and those comments could be directed to the Commissioner, William M. Rubenstein.

At this point, the Agency will be reviewing all the testimony and documents that we received and we'll consider whether any changes or revisions need to be made to the regulations as they were published in the Law Journal. Pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, we will then forward those regulations to the Attorney General's Office where they'll be reviewed for legal sufficiency. And if approved by the Attorney General, they will be forwarded to the Regulation Review Committee of the General Assembly for consideration and approval before filing with the Secretary of the State Office.

With that, I'll just note the time is now 10:22, and this public hearing is now adjourned.

CERTIFICATION

Public Hearing

Proposed Regulations Concerning the Use of Electronic Signatures For Engineers and Land Surveyors

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the audio cassette recording in the above-entitled Public Hearing heard before JERRY PADULA, Hearing Officer, on the 8th day of May, 2012.

Dated this 27th day of June, 2012 at Hartford, Connecticut.

Tiffani Smith
Department of Consumer Protection
Legal Division